

## Obama warns North Korea on rocket launch

SEOUL—Warning North Korea from its doorstep, US President Barack Obama said Pyongyang risked deepening its isolation in the international community—and losing all tougher sanctions—if the rebelive state proceeded with a planned long-range rocket launch.

"North Korea will achieve nothing by threats or provocations," Obama said during a news conference on

OBAMA/A12

PH to press North Korea to stop missile test / A12

## LEARNING

What will K to L2 do to universities / H1

## ACROSS

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## NEWS

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## PH economy booms despite 'Noynoying'

TO HIGGLERS who claim he is just "Noynoying" in his job, President Aquino has one answer: The economy is on the right track and "Noynoying" have happened in the country since he took over the presidency 21 months ago.

During an interview with Agence France Presse in Malacanan, PH: PH ECONOMY A11



BORDER VISION US President Barack Obama peers through binoculars toward North Korea from Observation Post Chamdo during a visit to the Joint Security Area of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) near Panmunjom on the border between North and South Korea.

## 2013 polls big factor in deciding impeachment case, says Miriam

By Christine V. Esguerra

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO yesterday warned of efforts to win over senator-judges during the long Senate break from the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Santiago, who will join the International Criminal Court after the trial, said the senators' election next year would be a factor in deciding the Corona case, especially among senators seeking reelection.

"Absolutely, I assure it's going

to take place," she said in a radio interview with GMA when asked about the possibility of senators being approached ("gagapaga") during the six-week break.

"Definitely, there will be an effort to outpace the trial by approaching each person, each senator judge and offering him some inducements," she added. Despite the public focus on the impeachment proceedings, she said in Filipino, "What's being considered in the impeachment trial is the election in 2013."

Santiago said an indictment from the Aquino administration might go like this: "If you vote in favor of impeachment, you will likely end up on the rocket of the administration. Think about it. We have no experience. We have money. We all know what the advantages of the administration are." Santiago said an ally could also come from the other side, which she referred to as "NGOs" (non-governmental organizations) that were not in favor of

2013POLLS A4

# Free P9-B coco fund, Noy urged

## Money may help farmers' projects

COCONUT CALVARY i-TEAM Report

By Fernando del Mundo (first of three parts)

PRESIDENT Aquino had a eureka moment on his last visit to the United States in September last year.

He had a taste of corn stout, courtesy of Brazilian businessman Rodrigo Alvares, whose product had become an instant best seller among American and European farmers.

Mr. Aquino was told that when Filipinos called "bobo" juice had more interest and potential than Corona, the popular spirit drink marketed by his father, Michael Jordan.

On his return to Manila, as Aquino President announced that the newly discovered third quarter in America could be a center for impoverished coconut farmers and their families who comprise a quarter of the nation's almost 100 million population.

FREE A2



COCONUT CALVARY President Aquino proudly shows packs of "bobo" juice, one of the products of the Philippine coconut industry, in this photo taken last year.

## Survey shows impact of admin drive vs Corona

By Armando Dorante

PUBLIC opinion ratings of the top five leaders of the country have been on a roller coaster since the start of the administration of President Aquino.

Opinion poll survey results released by Pulse Asia this week revealed a profound shift in the

balance of power among the three branches of the Philippine constitutional system in which the Supreme Court stood to have lost the most in public esteem and trust.

The poll also showed high trust ratings on the conduct of the trial, inspiring broad public confidence in the ability of the Senate impeachment court to

SURVEY A10



CORONA: Just mulling addresses.

## CJ: No Florida, California houses

By Markon Ramon

RENOWNED Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday denied reports that he owned at least two properties in the United States, saying the addresses mentioned by a journalist in her blog were apartments "rented" by his daughters.

"The reports are not true 100 percent. We have no property in the US," Corona said in text messages to reporters covering the justice here.

Transit Salvador EL, one of Corona's lawyers in the impeachment trial, questioned the motive of the journalist, Reina Roldan, in spreading the story which, he said, came as the Senate impeachment court took a six-week recess.

"The release of this story is highly suspicious because there will be no hearings and

12-03-2012 11:44

LRA chief is Corbin's nephew, says lawmaker / A13



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## On COA report, Atienza also asks: Why now?

By Christine V. Esguerra

WHY ONLY NOW? Former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said he was surprised by the sudden release of a Commission on Audit (COA) report disallowing the city government's payment of P34.7 million for the purchase of a property belonging to Basilio

Guidice. Bortoprice Inc. (BORTOP), a company owned by the family of impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona's wife, "If the motive isn't obvious, I don't know what it is. I can only laugh," Atienza told the lawmakers in a phone interview, noting that the COA order occurred 21 years after the transaction and only after he notified for the de-

france in the impeachment trial last week. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who sits as a judge in the trial, said Corona was right in not declaring the P34.7 million representing payment for the BORTOP property in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALIN).

In his testimony, Atienza said

Corona's wife, Cristina, received the payment from the city government "in trust" in behalf of BORTOP. "So it turns out that it is not (Corona's) money. It's not the money of his wife, but that of the company. So, it was only proper that he did not include it (in his SALIN)," Santiago said in

04-03-2012 11:40







# Rain, cloudy days ahead, says Pagasa

RAIN clouds are expected to linger over parts of Luzon in the next five days, providing an extended respite from summer's hot days, forecasters warn.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the country would continue to experience

rain and thunderstorms over the coming days as a "frontal system," which carries a mass of clouds, is expected to stay stable longer.

Pagasa said rain would likely dampen Metro Manila until Tuesday. The cloudy weather is also expected to affect Iloilo and Cebu as they start Monday.

Pagasa forecaster Milos DelaRosa said the rains brought cooler temperatures to Luzon, including Metro Manila. At this time of year, Metro Manila usually suffers under 34-35 degrees Celsius. On Monday, temperatures in the city were recorded at 31 degrees, due to the cooling effect of the rains and clouds.

Abside from cloudy weather, a new low pressure area has been seen forming off the coast of eastern Mindanao. Pagasa said this would dampen the southern region and the Visayas if it enters the country this week. And predicting these seemed little chance the low pressure area would become a tropical cyclone. *Brooke L. Stone*



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# P-Noy allots P7B to green watersheds

THE AGING administration has alloted P7 billion for rehabilitation of two water resources watersheds.

President Aquino said on Friday he approved the allocation in a budget for watershed for the sustainable operation of hydroelectric power plants.

The project aims to sustainably manage the watersheds while improv-

ing the income of local government units and communities in the process," said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda in a text message sent the weekend.

Lacierda said the integrated natural resources and environmental management program would cover the Bulacan River Basin and Lake Lanao River

Basin in Mindanao, Chico River Basin in the Cordillera Administrative Region and the Wabigabanga River Basin in Iloilo.

He said the funds would cover both local sources and foreign funding institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Fund and International Fund for Agricultural De-

velopment. He said P5.02 billion would come from the foreign institutions while P2.42 billion would be sourced locally.

Lacierda said that while there was yet no breakdown of the funds to be allocated per area, it was safe to say that at least half of them would be for Mindanao. *Norman Bernardino*



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# Gov't OKs 3 rice-sufficiency projects

By Rolando L. Alvar

THREE top-tier projects that would irrigate 150,000 hectares and enable farmers to increase their annual rice production by 400,000 metric tons have been given the go-ahead by the Agriculture Administration.

Agribusiness Secretary Francisco Duque yesterday said the government approved the construction of the three irrigation projects worth P15.7 billion, to be funded largely by foreign and domestic banks.

The government committed to allocate P4 billion for the construction of the irrigation systems during the board meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority last week.

The projects, which are expected to increase the rice yield by one producing region, are: Abad River Multipurpose Irrigation Project (P4.8 billion) in Iloilo, worth P1.2 billion; Camarillo Multipurpose Irrigation Project (P4.8 billion) in Iloilo, worth P1.2 billion; and the Tuguegarao River Irrigation Project (P6.1 billion) in Cagayan, worth P1.3 billion.

"Definitely this is a big push toward our target to provide a sufficient and sustainable rice supply for the country," Duque said.

"These are three irrigation projects and several others that will be constructed this year and in 2013 will ensure that the rice production will self-sufficiently produce the total rice and other staple requirements of the country's growing population," the secretary chief added.

## Top importer

The Philippines, which became the world's top rice importer in 2010, aims to become a self-sufficient rice producer by next year. The agriculture department has drastically increased its importation requirements and used Filipino farmers to increase their yield.

This year, the government is expecting an importation of 100,000,000 of rice, or 10 percent, 100,000,000 will be brought in by the private sector. The rest will be purchased by the Philippine government from other countries.

Abad and the projects, to be completed in five years, would irrigate a total area of 150,000 hectares—85,244 new and 64,756 rehabilitated.

They would also directly benefit 72,000 farm families in Iloilo, Nueva Ecija, Tuguegarao, and other areas, where rice production and export would more than double as they would be able to plant and harvest twice a year.

# Budget deficit grew in Feb., warns Abad

By Michelle K. Bano

CLASSIC PHILIPPINE—Fighting an estimated spending for infrastructure that is intended to revive the economic slowdown of last year, the budget department on Monday said the public should expect the national government to have a budget deficit in February much bigger than the P16 billion in January.

The government has yet to release official data on its fiscal position in February, but the Department of Budget and Management said public spending significantly exceeded revenue collection during the month, resulting in an increase in the deficit, especially as the bulk of the budget for full activities had already been released to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

"We expect the budget deficit for February to be significantly bigger than the P16 billion posted in January," Budget Secretary Francisco Abad told reporters during a forum held here last week. The forum was organized by the Business Roundtable of the Philippines.

Abad said the budget deficit rose last January to P16 billion to the DPWH for the various infrastructure projects lined up for this year. The amount represents 70 percent of the government's total budget for 2012 so far for 2012, he added.

During a report by the DPWH, Abad said that to 50 percent of all infrastructure projects have been bid out, and most of the projects were already awarded by "users or proceed." Contractors that build such projects are paid up to 10 percent of the project cost to cover mobilization expenses.

"The rest of under-spending is behind us," said Abad.

Last year, the economy grew by 5.7 percent from a year ago, but it was a sharp decline from the 7.8 percent in 2010. Last year's growth rate was also down from the government's target of between 4.5 percent and 5.5 percent.

Business leaders also warned not only on the decline in export revenues, as well as the economic crisis in the Philippines' export markets in the new year, but also on government under-spending. The national government spent much less than the programmed expenditures in the 2011.

Abad and other economic managers said the under-spending was a result of efforts to contain the government's expenditure of less than 2 percent of the country's GDP, as well as to improve the country's credit rating to investment grade, if not fully investment grade, by the end of the year.

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# PH to press N. Korea to stop missile test

By Jerry S. Bledsoe

THE PHILIPPINES would continue to press North Korea to abandon its plan to launch a long-range missile next month, Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario said yesterday.



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Del Rosario told the business that the Philippines would continue its efforts to the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, China, and to Pyongyang permanent representatives in the United Nations in New York.

Pyongyang has said the first

stage of the rocket is expected to fall in international waters about 1,000 kilometers off the North Korean coast, while the second stage is projected to splash down some 180 km off the northeast coast of the Philippines.

The rocket launch is planned for late April 12 and 14. Del Rosario urged Pyongyang to adhere to its pledge to abstain from a demonstration of long-range missile launches, nuclear testing and weapons development.

On Wednesday, the report came of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the North Korea not to proceed with the rocket launch, calling it "unacceptable." The launch is linked to a series of missile tests marking the 10th anniversary of North Korea's founding anniversary, Kim Jong-il's birthday.

The United States and its allies say it is a potential for a missile test that will make the U.S. security Council resolutions.

One such resolution, which was passed after North Korea's missile test in 2009, has led to the United States and its allies to impose sanctions on North Korea.

The Philippines is a longtime ally of the United States and South Korea, having signed the 1950-1953 Korean War at the United Nations.



**KORAN YAP/REXUS** Vice President Jejomar Binay offers a short prayer to front of a monument during the opening ceremony of the 1950-1953 Korean War at the War Memorial, Manila, a day before announcing the nuclear security summit.

ally of the United States and South Korea, having signed the 1950-1953 Korean War at the United Nations.

Manila is expected to announce its intention to support the U.S. and South Korea in their efforts to bring North Korea to the negotiating table.

The Philippines has called for U.S. help in monitoring the rocket launch.

Japan has threatened to take action if the North Korean rocket is a ballistic missile.

The Philippines has called for U.S. help in monitoring the rocket launch.

The Philippines has called for U.S. help in monitoring the rocket launch.

they cannot in Seoul, which is still today.

The summit is to be attended by the presidents of the United States, China and South Korea, among other world leaders.

The President Jejomar Binay is representing President Aquino at the conference.

## Obama airs warning to Pyongyang

From page M

Monday in Seoul, South Korea, where he was to attend a nuclear security summit.

Obama spoke back up his line to the news. He said that the United States and South Korea are committed to a long-term alliance and that the United States is committed to a long-term alliance with South Korea.

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called talks, along with China, Japan, Russia and South Korea. Of these, China has the greatest leverage as South Korea's only ally and neighbor.

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ing Kim might take a different approach than his father, he found none of the nuclear launch to be a "disappointment."

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# Court of cartwheels

**D**IRECT IMPACT of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Pampanga, Hapag Amador and Marikina decisions of the Philippine courts to be the last word on the matter for the upholding on October 21, 1991, of the 1987 decision ordering Philippine Airlines to reimburse 1,400 Pamp members' back pay a month before, the high tribunal, today 7-2, also ordered the recalling of the case and sent it back to square one. It is as if nothing has happened.

Between 1990 (when PAM had all the flight attendants) and today years have flown (there's a classic illustration of misreading of justice and justice of the law). But it is.

Even the timing of the release of the decision should reflect on the issue of agency (in lack of one) with which the high court was on pending matters of law and justice. Although the 30-page resolution is dated March 23, it was only made public on March 22, so more than a week later. Moreover, the presentation took place in the absence of the respondents, the majority decision chairing Court of any wrongdoing in the October recall, denouncing those who claim that the court is the Court to change its mind. "If justice is done in justice denied," a Pamp official said, "there is more justice better believed."

The PAM case has become one of the high court's leading cases for flip-flopping decisions. It was even a ground for the Supreme Court's decision to grant a writ of certiorari to the court. It was even a ground for the court to grant a writ of certiorari to the court. It was even a ground for the court to grant a writ of certiorari to the court.

But the new ruling adds dimensions any impartiality on the Chief Justice's part, saying he had inhibited himself from the case and that the resolution seems more because a number of senior justices had likewise inhibited themselves and that Chief Justice had performed the role of chief presiding officer of the court on his own. In addition, the majority argues that the original ruling ordering PAM to reimburse flight attendants and pay them back wages had no basis at all. "The recall was made by the Court on its own power of control over its orders and resolutions," the presentation says. "Thus, the recall prevents more cases."

In short, "time" is not so short.

But the order itself basically admits that the Court has changed its mind and it acknowledges the reasons for doing so. Passed by Justice Antonio Brion, the majority decision says the recall was "a proper and legal move to take into account the applicable laws and rules, and the indisputable material developments and circumstances of the case." The "adequately material developments" was allude to the changed complexion of the airline industry in which subcontracting has become the norm and flight attendants have been imposed upon. All this has been argued by PAM, in necessary to make the flight attendants and subcontractors. But obviously the "circumstances," however critical, should not warrant the Court reversing its "final" decision and making a final recall.

As Justice Jose Luciano Sison votes in her dissent, the majority view has "opened a Pandora's box full of future troubles for Philippine judicial decision-making." She explains that the decision has opened a case already decided with finality twice by at least 20 justices to three different divisions of the high court "for a staggering third time." Since the Supreme Court is the court of last resort, it is in a role with finality and no one can appeal or file it with less finality.

But also, the March 23 decision is one more indication to a series of flip-flopping rulings with which the Supreme Court, under Corason, has "demonstrated" itself and with which it has transformed the court of last resort into a three-day circus.

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# Another scam in the making?



## Another scam in the making?

**As I See It**

**NEED FOR ONE**

Law Abandon and Legal Reform Commission (LARC) is a commission that was set up by the Supreme Court to study the legal system and recommend reforms. It was set up in 1990 and has since then been working on its mandate. It has held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the public. It has also conducted research and has prepared a number of reports. It is now in the process of preparing its final report and recommendations.

In relation to the case, I received a copy from "Consumer's Digest" of the LARC report. It was a copy of the report that was published in the Philippine Star. It was a copy of the report that was published in the Philippine Star. It was a copy of the report that was published in the Philippine Star.

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**THERE'S THE RUB**

**CONCORDIA DE ANTONIO**

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# Llamados, Gin Kings secure q'final berths

## David blows key charities again

By Huang R. Canillo

BETTER approach to Ming and Shengyang Chen's postcard on contrasting victories were separate from last night to end places in the quarterfinals. The 2.2m in the center defeated Shengyang 76. The team took home 76.50 in the final.

The Llamados (Pinnacle) were in a wild and mostly fine 96.91, and then the Gin Kings broke away in the final quarter to clip Shengyang 76.50, taking a huge transfer shot to the final quarter.

Gin Kings moved to second spot with a 6-3 loss, while the Llamados to 3.3 and made a 4-3 finish with the Llamados to 2.2 in the center defeated Shengyang 76. The team took home 76.50 in the final.

David's second loss to the Gin Kings was a 4-3 loss, while the Llamados to 3.3 and made a 4-3 finish with the Llamados to 2.2 in the center defeated Shengyang 76. The team took home 76.50 in the final.

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MAC's (left) and Gin Kings' (right) players in action during the game. The Gin Kings' player is wearing a blue jersey with the number 24, and the Llamados' player is wearing a white jersey with the number 15.

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Vettel's victory was a significant boost for the team, as they had struggled in previous races. The race was held at the Sepang International Circuit, and Vettel's performance was praised by the team and fans alike.

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# UN/African delegation tells Mali junta to hand back power

**BAMAKO**—A delegation of UN and African officials has said the military junta that seized power in Mali on Wednesday ought to hand back power, saying its goal is to fix Mali's problems and restore security before stepping down will be reached.

The message was delivered on Friday during a lightning visit by UN and African Union officials and the head of the regional Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to the UN Secretary-General's special representative for West Africa, Said Ibrahim, in his capacity as African Union envoy.

Mali's new military leaders asked the presidential palace and Mali's new interim this week, dismissed and President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's leadership of a military by the military council launched in January. Keita's removal was demanded by the UN and the African Union, but the African Union's Council of Ministers has been hesitant to do so, fearing it would lead to a power vacuum. Early on, the military council stated its intention to remain neutral, but it was not clear when the fighting had been ended.

The coup leaders have said they plan to restore security and apply the army to better fight northern Islamist rebels.

"We wanted them to stay but we would not want them to stay if the restoration of constitutional order was conditional," Keita said, adding that the coup leaders did not have a timeframe to hand back power. "The time is not with them. The more they stay, the more it gets complicated. That's the message," Keita added.

Said Ibrahim, the UN Secretary-General's



UN Special Representative Said Ibrahim

the UN Secretary-General and the President of the African Union, a body set up by the UN and the African Union, to help Mali.

There has not been a clear plan since the coup, although the African Union and the UN have said they will not be involved in the military council's actions.

The international community has urged a rapid return to constitutional rule and a coalition of Malian parties said elections, which had been scheduled for April, should be held as soon as possible.

However, the Economic Community of

West African States, said it would not consider the junta and has scheduled a meeting in Addis Ababa on Wednesday to discuss the Mali crisis.

Keita said the junta would probably follow the African Union's lead and hand back power. "They have given us a clear signal as to how to help them. We will seriously help on the restoration of constitutional order," he said.

Keita's visit came on Saturday, with the junta's new military council, the National Transitional Council, which was set up by the junta, and the military council, which was set up by the junta, and the military council, which was set up by the junta.

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## WORLD BRIEFS

### Space station crew scrambles as debris passes nearby

**HOUSTON**—Six crew members aboard the International Space Station temporarily scrambled into space suits Sunday to monitor debris in Earth orbit as a satellite in a disoriented Russian orbit passed nearby, the latest episode spotlighting the growing amount of space debris orbiting the planet. The crew—three Russians, two Americans and a Canadian—climbed into their spacesuits as the debris passed within about 100 miles of the station at 2:30 a.m. Eastern time. The crew then returned to the station to return to the station. The debris was a small satellite, but it was not clear whether it was a Russian satellite or a Russian satellite. The debris was a small satellite, but it was not clear whether it was a Russian satellite or a Russian satellite.

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## Probe: Afghan shootings carried out in 2 stages

**HOUSTON**—Military investigators report that the US soldier charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder and other charges in connection with the attacks against Afghan civilians this month committed the shootings during two separate operations, a US official said on Saturday.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity be-

cause of the ongoing investigation, said investigators believed that the soldier, Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, did the Afghan attacks in two stages, first in the first set of killings, and then in the second set of killings, and then in the second set of killings, and then in the second set of killings.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity be-

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Milosevic, Sanders serve up flashy title-clinchers** A30

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**Djingo routs Yang, squares face-off series** A31



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## PH Patriots overwhelm Slingers

**REINFORCEMENT** Federico Miller threw his weight around today the patriot to power the Atila Philippine Patriots and the Atila Patriots in the Atila Patriots Basketball League in the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Miller posted his eighth double-double of the season—22 points and 12 rebounds—in the Patriots' win over the Slingers. Miller's performance helped the Patriots to a fourth straight win and improved their record to 12-2.

Miller's impact, however, was not enough to overcome the Slingers' defense. The Slingers won the game 85-78.



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**ALABA** Philippine Patriots' impact: Miller's performance helped the Patriots to a fourth straight win and improved their record to 12-2.

Miller's impact, however, was not enough to overcome the Slingers' defense. The Slingers won the game 85-78.

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## Thrift banks facing tougher competition

By Dave C. Dantes

THE COUNTRY'S thrift banks are facing fierce competition from private banks as the latter expand their reach into the micro-finance market, particularly in rural areas.

Private banks are also expanding their reach into the micro-finance market, particularly in rural areas.

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bank by a "high single-digit" level this year.

Chong said growing the fast bank by 8 percent or double the pace of the domestic economy were to grow by 4 percent, for instance, would be pre-

dominant enough.

The commercial banking sector grew by less than 10 percent last year and it is expected to grow by 10-15 percent this year.

Chong said increasing competition

from the bigger banks would also temper the growth of their banks' loan books as more customers and banks lay out their strategies.

BCIC Savings Bank president Ramon Laticiano, who chaired last year's

2012 convention, agreed that with competition growing wider in the consumer lending business, the big challenge for all banks would be to "join market share and keep costs

low."

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# BUSINESS

## Clear bottlenecks in budget use, gov't urged

Policy, communication 'ticks' blamed for low absorptive capacity

By Rita T. Delacruz

THE PRESIDENT received a letter from weak public spending in early 2011 through a P72-billion allocation. Last government agencies used only about 10 percent of the total to finance plans to improve infrastructure, the World Bank said in a report.

In 2011, weak government spending pulled down growth, with gross domestic production growing by just 3.7 percent, below the government's short-term target of 5 percent to 6 percent. The estimated target is to give GDP by an average of 7 percent to 8 percent

yearly from 2010 to 2014 to make a dent on poverty.

The World Bank noted the dominance in infrastructure is the first three quarters, partly attributed to measures to improve transparency and accountability in national government operations. For example, although review of the bidding process for infrastructure projects was conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways to improve cost-efficiency and transparency of government and budget execution.

It more work needs to be done and the World Bank said the government must keep clearing up inefficiencies in more agencies on money and use to projects that have a high impact on people's development.

Contrary to frequent allegations that slow budget execution is due to the Department of Budget and Management's dominance or failure to release agency budgets, the report said that while showing that more often than not, the agencies themselves had the funds in their own spending processes. That is, they have less capacity to absorb and use their budget fully.

The World Bank said the reasons behind the slow budget execution capacity included frequent and unpredictable changes in agency policy regarding program implementation modalities, continuous program cancellations caused by lack of forward planning, and complexity of emergency execution, which at times in emergency could still absorb substantial amounts of money.

For example, the World Bank said, during the 2009-2010 period, the Civil Service Commission and the Traditional Regulatory Commission.

The government has started to deal with these issues but it will take some time before spending picks up again. The report pointed out.

Public construction funds by about 30 percent despite efforts to reduce infrastructure spending in the fourth quarter.

The study said most government in the second quarter, with a 54 percent drop in spending compared to the same period in 2010. Current expenditures such as personnel services, maintenance and other operating expenditures accounted by 8 percent in the first quarter but slowly recovered in the next three quarters, growing by 3 percent by the end of 2011.

Compared to programmed expenditures, disbursement was down by 9 percent in 2011. Total disbursement in P1,508 billion was only 41 percent of programmed expenditures for the year and 52 percent of total available appropriations. The deterioration in spending performance was most pronounced in infrastructure and other capital expenditures which only 16 percent of the full year programmed expenditure was disbursed as of December.

## Retirement of 5 Meralco substations OKd

By Arny B. Reyes

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has allowed power distributor Manila Electric Co. to retire five substations in Cebu, Laguna, Negros, and other areas and to convert their old substations to new ones.

A panel of experts present showed that the retirement of the substations is not in the withdrawal of the equipment and machinery involved and will not affect the safety of the system. The retirement is being of reliable and efficient power supply," the commission said in a decision.

The retirement of the P12-million worth of assets was in part of a retirement program, which will give way to the withdrawal of the 26 110kV/34.5kV substations in these areas.

In particular, Meralco has programmed the gradual retirement of old voltage systems, as the distribution system with voltage above 110 kV is on 110 kV to the so-called "high voltage system" within the distribution system.

"The retirement of voltage transformation substations is a necessary step to improve the reliability and safety of the distribution system by phasing out old voltage systems," Meralco said. In the past, Meralco began to allocate P10 billion to P15 billion to its capital expenditure program.

Chair S. Reyes, senior member of the panel and chief operating officer of Meralco, said that the bulk of the amount would be used to retire capital projects such as substations, lines, transformers, and distribution lines.

This move, according to Reyes, would ensure that Meralco would continue to have a robust distribution system despite the expected increase in the power load over the next few years.

Last year, Meralco had allocated P9 billion to its capital, which was the construction of new substations to accommodate additional load of distribution system, conversion of old voltage systems to the standard 34.5kV/110kV distribution system, improvement of switching facilities of distribution lines and replacement of obsolete power transformers.

The completion of the development of the new Cebu distribution system, the construction of the new and largest Substation, and the construction of three new 110 kV substations are now being completed in the last quarter of 2012.

**Power Situation Outlook**  
for Monday, 28 March 2012

	Load	Supply	Balance
Normal Supply (MW)	8,585	1,124	1,142
Normal Peak (MW)	8,585	1,347	1,279
Peak Supply (MW)	1,865	371	-136



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## Granularity business technology centers

The company's first step was to create a "business case" for the technology. This was done by identifying the key business drivers and the potential impact of the technology on these drivers. The company then conducted a series of experiments to test the technology's effectiveness in improving these drivers.

The results of the experiments were positive, showing that the technology could significantly improve the company's performance in the key business drivers. This led to the company's decision to implement the technology on a large scale.



The company's success in implementing the technology was due to a combination of factors. First, the company had a clear understanding of its business drivers and the potential impact of the technology. Second, the company conducted thorough experiments to test the technology's effectiveness. Finally, the company had a strong commitment to innovation and was willing to invest in new technology.

The company's success in implementing the technology was a testament to its commitment to innovation and its ability to identify and capitalize on new opportunities.

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## What can air become case-driven leaders?

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## Pangarmen processing firm bags award

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## Top bank goes after Filipinos living on interest



**By John H. Johnson**  
 The Philippines' top bank, BDO Unibank, is targeting Filipinos who live on interest from their investments. The bank is offering a new investment product that allows investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits.

BDO Unibank is the largest bank in the Philippines, with assets of \$100 billion. The bank is offering a new investment product called "BDO Unibank Investment Fund." This fund allows investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits.

The fund is designed to attract investors who are looking for a way to grow their wealth. The fund is expected to be a success, as it offers a unique opportunity for investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits.

BDO Unibank is a leader in the Philippines' financial industry. The bank has a long history of providing services to its customers, and it is now expanding its offerings to include investment products.

The bank's new investment product is a response to the needs of its customers. Many Filipinos are looking for ways to grow their wealth, and the bank is providing them with a new option.

Filipinos			
<p><b>Philippine business leaders</b>                  are looking for ways to grow their wealth. Many are turning to investment products like BDO Unibank's new fund.</p>	<p><b>Banking industry</b>                  is seeing a surge in interest in investment products. BDO Unibank is leading the way with its new fund.</p>	<p><b>Investment products</b>                  are becoming more popular in the Philippines. BDO Unibank's new fund is a prime example.</p>	<p><b>Financial industry</b>                  is growing rapidly in the Philippines. BDO Unibank is a major player in this industry.</p>



with ALPHA

ALPHA is a new investment product that allows investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits. This product is designed to attract investors who are looking for a way to grow their wealth.

ALPHA is a unique opportunity for investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits. This product is expected to be a success, as it offers a unique opportunity for investors to grow their wealth.

### Filipino entrepreneurs

Many Filipino entrepreneurs are looking for ways to grow their businesses. They are turning to investment products like ALPHA to help them achieve their goals.

ALPHA is a new investment product that allows investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits. This product is designed to attract investors who are looking for a way to grow their wealth.

ALPHA is a unique opportunity for investors to earn interest on their investments while also receiving a share of the bank's profits. This product is expected to be a success, as it offers a unique opportunity for investors to grow their wealth.

### Philippines word

The Philippines is a country with a rich history and culture. It is a country that is full of opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs.

The Philippines is a country that is full of opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs. It is a country that is full of opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs.



For more information, visit [www.alphainvestment.com](http://www.alphainvestment.com)

# BUSINESS Monday

## 'Workaholic' companies here to stay and prosper

By Lita Lee-Ignacio-Abrera  
Column Editor

**W**E've all heard of workaholics—those who work out of compulsion to earn a lot of money, pursue wealth and keep up with the Joneses, get promoted or please a boss, those who set impossibly high standards, or

The line between work and personal life is blurring

those who have become so depressed emotionally on work that, without it, they'd probably fall apart or lose their identity.

But have you heard of workaholic companies? They're probably not the case of them but don't know what it calls them. They're the organizations and corporations where workaholics are employees. They expect everyone to be in their work attire or dress code or to be present 100 percent the working shift hours. They also expect their employees to skip lunch, work late and to sleep when they're off duty. And when the employees aren't much conscientious, they will get their consequences!

24 by 7?

Take the case of retail centers and the entire business process management (BPM) industry in the country where employees pride themselves on working "24 by 7." They're not evaluated by providing them "conscientious values," because not all employees of all disciplines and all opportunities for career growth.

But here's the catch: their bodies and minds should be ready to show for long hours, work on rotating shifts, and work on weekends.

There's not to know about the rise of BPM centers, which have created many government workers and lower the country's unemployment.

In a recent article in the Singapore Business Review, David, managing director for Baker, Hall International Asia, a recruitment firm in Singapore, says the phenomenon of the 24/7 employees and some workaholic is by technological advancements but he is happy employees and have increased time, which undoubtedly is an advantage for businesses in this competitive world.

But the phenomenon of constant work means that the results in the case of personal space, higher stress levels and overall decline in the quality of life for employees, always.

Using Robert Half's workplace survey in 2010, David says the line between work and personal life is too blurry for professionals in Asia Pacific. He says 60 percent of Singapore employees, by instance, turn into work mode when they are out of the office or on holiday. The respondent claims, they can be available in case of an emergency at work and then through work e-mail to receive less stress when they return to the office.

Realistic

In a Reader's Digest article titled "Are you a workaholic?" by Warren Bennis, a well-known organization doesn't necessarily have an edge over its competitors. The workaholic, workaholic may be imagination.

These days, when people have become a constant business more sales, providing employees are becoming picky about the clock and measure the responsibilities of the employees, some work has become over.

Employees need to be realistic in their performance in order to avoid overworking their mind and negatively affecting employees' morale and work productivity," David suggests. "In practice, it is if you do want to stay connected with work, always make time at the end of the day or at the beginning of the day to spend each day on your e-mailbox when you can enjoy the rest of the day with your friends and family while no reaction."

No surprises

Estimate-Meyers, writing in a marketing services firm website, stresses that employees should not work to a human way.

"Social networking employees by designing a system for keeping tabs on employees' whereabouts, so they know what they're doing, says the site. "Also, while low-maintenance projects aren't entirely avoidable, managers should give their employees plenty of advance notice when an assignment is coming down the pipeline. Employees who are constantly multitasking get lost in their work and will do just the bare minimum to get the job done."

Quoting the CEO of an employee assistance program provider, Meyers says that employees are approaching burnout. They're not developing a negative attitude that can spread to other employees and good coworkers.

"Employees should keep in mind that the only person in business that can cut out of the company is an employee who is not an employee of an organization," she writes.

Meyers also advises managers to try not to spend too much money on employees. "Many employees want more out of their work, so they know what to expect when they come to work every day. If they're going to be in the office in the workday, they want to be in the office with the employees," she says.

## Off-peak rates help SMEs expand

Better operations, productivity gained from Meralco's Time-of-Use scheme

By Nick N. Canino

**A**lthough off-peak rates during off-peak periods, telecommunications firms have their own scheme which allows customers to save costs after midnight, from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Off-peak pricing is indeed working wonders both for the companies and their clients.

A similar cost-saving option is available to electric customers who may now choose to adopt the distribution utility's Time-of-Use (TOU) program that allows them, particularly small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), to expand their business by achieving more efficient operations through savings in energy consumption.

Plastic manufacturers Gensic Industries Inc., the company behind the popular Orsica brand—is one SME that can attest to this by taking advantage of Meralco's off-peak rates, the SME was able to increase its productivity by investing and savings in five new machines.

Another SME, metal bike manufacturer Melitex, saved expenses through cost savings of more than P10,000 per month from improved operational efficiency and optimized energy consumption due to its adoption of Meralco's off-peak rates.

Meralco's TOU allows commercial and industrial customers, with at least five kilowatt energy demand, to shift its electricity use to off-peak hours when power rates are lower. The shift helps customers save on electricity expenses and gain improved operational efficiency.

TOU is a component of Meralco's Customer Choice Program where non-residential customers may opt to enroll with the distribution utility to maintain off-peak hours whenever rates are lower.

Reuben Faust, Meralco's senior sales customer for central Luzon, Meralco got up the factory to meet the growing demand, making the company expand

for several hours in the community.

Melitex, connected with Meralco's engineering and relationship managers for energy efficiency tips and best practices to maximize utilization.

The conclusion, led him to the TOU program.

With the shifting of load to off-peak, night-time periods, the company realized significant savings which allowed Melitex to invest in Meralco's other business and hire more people. Melitex, one of Bulacan's most trusted metal bike manufacturers, has now increased its employees by 60 percent.

Another Meralco customer, Gensic Industries, has a similar story to tell. Gensic Industries, the wheel-based Gensic Industries by capitalizing on its existing need to hire 10 manufacturing from bicycle parts to plastic chairs.

In 2011, Gensic Industries strengthened its relationship with Meralco by enrolling in the TOU scheme. Shifting the power load to night-time and Sunday operations generated enough savings to finance five new machines for expanded production capabilities.

Today, Gensic Industries is among the leading players in the plastic chairs segment because of its top quality products that are produced 10 percent to 10 percent cheaper than imported counterparts.

Thriving from successful business models fueled by a sustainable partnership with Meralco, Melitex and Gensic Industries



With the company's enrollment in Meralco's TOU program, Melitex was able to expand its business by hiring more people and investing in new machines to produce more products.



By shifting operations to off-peak hours, Gensic Industries was able to expand its business by hiring more people and investing in new machines to produce more products.

have been recognized as Meralco's TOU customers for the TOU category.

Filed last February 6, the Luzon News Service in Meralco's customer recognition program which looks into the private and public sectors whose partnership with Meralco has resulted in optimized energy use, improved operational efficiency and more secure jobs in nation-building.

During the spotlight with Melitex and Gensic Industries were various agencies manufacturing company Ho Agapio and Marketing, metal bike parts, mechanical parts, Ho Agapio Group of Companies and bike manufacturers Melitex which was named top SME customer.

Like most SME industries, most similar enterprises can also become winners themselves. As Meralco customers with existing service for 12 months, they may request Meralco technical assistance to run a monitor and recommend how current operations can be adjusted to take advantage of TOU.

How decision to enroll in TOU and the subsequent results can be inspiring in the eyes of the Meralco SME customers.

## Who qualifies for off-peak pricing?

Customers are not industrial customers, at least five kilowatt energy demand may apply for the Time-of-Use (TOU) scheme where they can enjoy lower rates during off-peak hours.

Regulatory companies can distribute electricity use to off-peak hours, so as to minimize expenses and gain improved operational efficiency. One Meralco customer, for instance, saved P10,000 per month and achieved the amount to order to expand its business.

To maximize Meralco's benefits, other customers shift their operations to nighttime off-peak periods to 12 hours.

Companies to consider enrolling may call Meralco for a full consultation about various services, including their existing operations at Meralco. Meralco's website also provides information on how to enroll. Customers can also contact their business operations to make the most use of TOU.

For more information, call 1-800-222-2222 or visit www.meralco.com.ph

### Meralco Peak and Off-Peak Hours

Monday-Saturday			
Off Peak	12:00-12:59	1:00-1:59	12:00-12:59
Peak	1:00-1:59	2:00-11:59	12:00-12:59

Sunday			
Off Peak	12:00-12:59	1:00-1:59	12:00-12:59
Peak	1:00-1:59	2:00-11:59	12:00-12:59

### Meralco Time-of-Use (TOU) Rates\*

Meralco's TOU Rates		Meralco's TOU Rates	
Monday-Saturday		Monday-Saturday	
Off Peak	12:00-12:59	1:00-1:59	12:00-12:59
Peak	1:00-1:59	2:00-11:59	12:00-12:59
Off Peak	12:00-12:59	1:00-1:59	12:00-12:59
Peak	1:00-1:59	2:00-11:59	12:00-12:59

\*Rates are subject to change without notice. All rates are in Philippine pesos per kilowatt-hour (kWh).



# BUSINESS

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## Shift to digital television seen happening by '16

Industry players  
await decision  
on PH standard

By Paolo S. Montalbo

The shift to digital TV broadcasting technology in the country—that would result in better services for millions of households—can still be completed before the end of the Aquino administration, a top government official said.

Once the standard to be used for digital TV in the country is chosen with finality, the clearing off of inefficient analog signals could take just three years, Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO) Deputy Executive Director Manolo A. Escudero said. That is, however, than the previously projected five years.

Escudero notes that the use of digital broadcasting would lead to benefits to both consumers and television networks.

"The first benefit is the improvement in the quality of broadcasting. Normal consumers get high-definition content for free with digital TV," Escudero said. "It also allows for interactive broadcasting that can be used in many ways such as controlling services or sending content," he said.

For the networks, Escudero said digital TV would free up significant amounts of radio spectrum that could be used to deliver more content, giving consumers more viewing options.

He said the ICTO, which is an agency attached to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), is currently formulating a migration plan to digital TV technology for the country.

President Aquino wants a definite plan that will explain why the country needs this, Escudero said. "There are a lot of issues, chief of which is the cost to consumers," he said.

Over the commercial issue of what

INQUIRER

## PH companies explore deals with Taiwan firms

By Amy R. Ramo

A DISCUSSION of eight Philippine automotive and motorcycle parts companies is set to join two trade missions to Taiwan later this month, in a bid to explore strategic partnerships with auto parts, insurance, equipment suppliers and potential investors.

In a statement, the Department of Trade and Industry said the Overseas Business Mission (OBM) and the Taipei Investment and Trade Office (TIO) are planning a 2012 trade show will allow to solidify current partnerships with the Taiwan automotive and oil organizations.

For this year's event, Gila Field Corp., Pinarco Inc., Pinarco Inc., OBM, OBM Mfg. Corp., Honda Asia Parts Corp., Pinarco Enterprises, Inc., M&A Auto Enterprises, Inc., Gila Manufacturing Corp., and Pinarco Auto Performance Systems will comprise the mission.

In addition to discussing their products during the trade show, business meetings are being arranged by Trade Sector Trade Representative Lisa Angeles-Stallard for the delegation.

The Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Taipei reported that the Philippine participation in the AMBA 2011 show resulted in localized and imported sales worth \$17.4 million while potential three-year revenues for various OEM contracts were estimated to reach \$42 million.

Last year's trade show drew 34,000 registered buyers from the US, Europe, Australia, Japan, ASEAN, India and YBC.

"The PTIC recognized the opportunities in Taiwan for the local parts manufacturing industry both in the motor for supply."

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# BUSINESS

## P68B needed to address rising energy demand, study shows

By Amy R. Nono

AS MUCH as P68 billion in funds, investments are needed to increase power distribution facilities

and to rehabilitate and upgrade existing ones to meet the projected increase in energy demand up to 2018.

According to the recently released

2010-2017 Distribution Development Plan (DDP) showed that the bulk of the financial investments, estimated at about P11.5 billion, must be poured in the rehabilita-

tion while another P16.4 billion should be used for distribution projects. Another P26.3 billion would be needed for the construction of new distribution lines and additional substation capacity.

According to the 10-year program, the projected increase was over 26,000 distribution kilometers (30-kilometer lines that have been programmed for rehabilitation and/or upgrading, as

well as the construction of 17,000 kilometers of lines and an additional 5,232 megawatt (mwp) substation capacity.

On a per grid basis, future distribution utilities will require 3,758 MW additional substation capacity and 7,171 kilometers of new distribution lines.

In the Visayas, distribution utilities must plan to rehabilitate 2,443 kilometers of lines, extend 5,076 kilometers, and construct new substation capacity of 640 MW.

In Mindanao, distribution in-

frastructures requirements are focused on construction of 671 MW substation capacity and 5,209 kilometers of distribution lines, and rehabilitation of 2,636 kilometers of lines.

The Department of Energy envisions in the updated Distribution Development Plan that these investments are critical given the projected increase in peak demand of 4,200 megawatts to 12,113 MW in 2019 from 8,000 MW in 2005, representing an average growth of 4 percent annually.

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## Banks' real estate exposure up 20%

### BSP: Rising household incomes led to record borrowings in '11

By Michelle Y. Nono

THE EXPOSURE of banks in the real estate sector, particularly to the extent of construction of property loans and investments in lands owned by property firms, rose by nearly 20 percent in 2011 to a new record high of more than P1 billion.

The trough, marked by Philippine and its increase in the banks' exposure to real estate came on the back of higher household income and increased economic activity that led to more demand for residential and commercial properties.

Data from the BSP showed that the exposure of banks—both commercial and thrift banks—to the real estate sector rose to P1.03 billion by the end of 2011, rising by 19.5 percent from the P855.5 billion reported during the same period the previous year.

The latest amount was also higher by 8.8 percent from the P945.6 billion seen in September 2011.

"The continued exposure to the real estate sector of commercial and thrift banks, and both banks combined, has led to a billion and reached the highest level in 2011," the BSP said in a statement Friday.

This is due to real estate properties were utilized largely to generate in continuous loans to finance Philippine markets. Growing household incomes, supported by minimum, allowed many Filipino households to level out short-term buying loans with the help of bank loans.

The other factor, due to demand for con-

structional properties was partly credited to sustained investments by private sector manufacturing (MFG) firms.

These demand from loans to individual and corporate borrowers to support purchases of residential and commercial properties accounted for the bulk of the banks' exposure, at P706 billion.

The total remainder came from banks' investments in bank-owned properties.

Also, national and commercial banks accounted for 1906 billion of the total, having extended a large corporate loan.

Although banks extended their real estate loans, the BSP said, their exposure to real estate had not been reduced.

Notwithstanding real estate loans ratio—the share of secured real estate loans to total real estate loans—improved to 5 percent by the end of 2011 from the 4.5 percent of the same period the previous year, and the 3.5 percent of September 2011.

Secured loans or real estate are those that have remained unpaid at least 30 days upon maturity.

The growth in bank loans in the real estate sector was due to bank concerns over potential asset price bubbles, similar to what had happened in late 1990s, that the BSP changed this off.

Still, in the late 1990s when demand for properties was mostly speculative in nature, some purchases of real estate were funded by actual demand from households and companies that were in need of space for expanded operations, the BSP explained.

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## THE SUBMARINER DATE



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*Robert Hunka holds positions and teaches worldwide*

There is a growing awareness of the importance of the environment in the development of the world. The environment is a common concern for all people, and it is essential to protect it for the future of our planet. The environment is a complex system, and it is important to understand the interactions between the different components of the system. The environment is a shared resource, and it is important to manage it sustainably. The environment is a common concern for all people, and it is essential to protect it for the future of our planet.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the system is not working properly.



the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, have signed an agreement to launch a joint investigation into the 1994-1995 BSE outbreak in Great Britain.

James Watson, director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, says the agreement is a "significant step" in the fight against BSE. "We are committed to working closely with our allies to ensure the safety of the food supply," he says.

The agreement calls for the three countries to share information on BSE cases, to coordinate their regulatory efforts, and to conduct joint research on the disease. It also calls for the three countries to work together to develop a common definition of BSE and to establish a common system for reporting cases.

The agreement is the first of its kind and is expected to lead to further cooperation between the three countries in the fight against BSE.

[illegible]

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#### IN THIS ISSUE

■ Philippines hosts launch of global celebration of 50th World Theater Day /CG

■ Siete Palabras, showcase of Filipino culture and faith, on April 6 /Da



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## Philippines hosts launch of global celebration of 50th World Theater Day

THE PHILIPPINES was the host country for the global conference of South Market Thursday, which will be marked tomorrow, March 27.

Speechmaking for the launch was the Philippine Center of International Theater Institute (ITI), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Earthwatch Diverse Groups, led by its president, Cecilia Golden-Gomez, and other UN agencies.

The lectures were held on March 7, at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Pinar del Rio with José María Cordero, head of the DFA's General Diplomacy Unit and a senior diplomat, as the main

IRA Office of International Economic Relations, releasing a report from Britain and parking groups from Germany, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Spain, the United States, and the Philippines.

Dr. Hubert Glaser, Vice-Chancellor to the Phillips and head of the National Bureau of Cinema for Arts and Culture, delivered the opening message on behalf of UNESCO director-general Ama Houton. He highlighted the role of arts education and culture in fostering inclusive and sustainable development and recognized that theater can be an effective medium to further this initiative.

During Reception, the representation of the International Theater Institute, likewise, delivered a message underscoring the importance of theater as a vehicle for promoting cultural expressions in celebration of cultural diversity.

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The performances of a youth theater and percussion groups highlighted the launch, aiming to celebrate diverse cultural identities. Philippines through song and dance.

World Theatre Day was also celebrated in several areas in Manila until March through collaborative art and performances of



World Theater has trained since 1962, mostly international artists' groups in Black 27, marked



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page was a unique opportunity to promote the Philippines' cultural gateway to the world, offering a wealth of traditions, history and hospitality. A haven of creative arts, folk festivals and local efficiency. The show also provides the South-East Asia where the tradition to have cultural events are common.

**FORAS** has been named director general of the International Theatre Institute.

For more details on courses and schedules, contact Ms. Lillian Phipps and Inquiries Office (Phip) Social Science Center at 527.5262, 06-08-0057. Have comments, e-mail: [scs@psdschools.org](mailto:scs@psdschools.org).

A group of dancers in traditional costumes performing a dance on a stage. The dancers are wearing dark, patterned dresses with large, light-colored diamond shapes on the front. They are in various poses, some with arms raised, suggesting a dynamic dance. The background is a simple stage setting with a light-colored backdrop.

**NARTO (NINE)** group is the sole dance category in the Veterans leg of Super-Power. The NCAA National Dance Competition and training groups in the contemporary category in the Veterans leg of Super-Power.

## NCCA promotes dance through Savaw Pinoy contest and Dance Xchange

**THE NATIONAL** Committee on United Nations, headed by Shirley Hufsch, Chair, of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), promotes and advocates the use of dance with two major events—Sagay, Pinar: The 2012 National Dance Competition and Dance Showcase 2012; The Philippine International Dance Festival. These dance spectacles are happening from March to the end of April in different parts of the country.

Many of these, in part of efforts to promote dance to its various forms: folk dance, ballet, modern contemporary, hip-hop, and contemporary/balletism. It aims to promote artistic excellence in the different dance forms in the spirit of friendly competition. There is a feature Dance Young Dance concert, which has been bringing dance to different parts of the Philippines for 18 years now, as part of the Philippine International.

The event, which was the national competition, the current holds eight of the competitors in three different classes of the country for the first time.

The Learning was held March 20 at the provincial capital city of Malindi, Kilindi. This event played in the folk dance category, right in contemporary and 12 in Sip-hop. Winners in the folk dance category were Hana ya Ohangwa (Public) Group of Ngazuni, Bulbula (Public) Pukania State University Dares Salaam (second), and Sulu Luma University, Dares Salaam (third).

In the contemporary category, winners were Janet Gould (University of Western Ontario) for *Shogun: City of the Samurai*, Catherine Frenkel (University of Guelph) for *Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen*, and Philippos Iordanidis (University of Western Ontario) for *Manila* (short).

In the lifetime category, winners were Norberta Dancu (University of Guelph) for *Queen of the Damned*, Janice Hsu (University of Toronto) for *Samurai Mania* (documentary), and Heidi K. Lawrence (University of Western Ontario) for *Shogun*.

Serving as judges were Keith Grant

**MISSY Luck, University Soccer Group of Eugene City, winner in the contemporary category in the Learning of Soccer Play with the by Multi-Care**

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In the business category, winners were last December's University of Colorado at Boulder, Google Inc. and Portland, Oregon-based Intergraph Design Company from Reno City, Calif. (second), and Emswiler-Thurman Inc., Taylorville (third).

In the business category, winners were last December's Utah State University, Denver, Colo. (first), Google Inc. (second), and Emswiler-Thurman Inc., Taylorville (third).

Caplan (second), and Louise Green (third).

Judges were HALLEY, John Francis, Shamba Wilson, chief of the NECA Plan Policy Foundation, and Programming Director, and Oliver Dwyer.

The Midwestern leg was held March 26-27 at the State University in Orem, Utah. Minnesota's Continental, with eight groups competing in folk dance, drew its members from throughout the state. In fact, more than 100 in folk dance, more than 100 in ballroom and 10 in tap.

In the folk dance category, winners were Northern Midwestern State College from Northern Illinois, LaSalle College from Illinois, and the University of Utah from Utah. In ballroom, winners were the University of Utah from Utah, the University of Utah from Utah, and the University of Utah from Utah. In tap, winners were the University of Utah from Utah, the University of Utah from Utah, and the University of Utah from Utah.

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Bye after the Super-Pacey match.

**DANCERS** of Tangshu City Dance Space Society take winners in the ballroom category of the Huasimaoing of Sanya Dance

The event will bring together both dance companies and dancers, both local and international, in a joint celebration of dance.

**DanceXchange** is a collaborative international dance fest, created for the purpose of fostering relationships and holding all over the world by dancers at Theatre Junction (TJ) on April and Philippine National Dance Festival which is a one-day work of April 1999 is declared by President No. 154 "to bring together dancers, communities and realize the beauty of dance in the society and in the life of the world."

For more details on activities or schedules, contact Member Life: 800-344-4444 or call at 302-224-0000/302-224-0001, e-mail [mylife@nrcan.org](mailto:mylife@nrcan.org), or visit [www.nrcan.org](http://www.nrcan.org). For more information on NRCAN Public Affairs and Government Affairs, please visit [www.nrcan.gov](http://www.nrcan.gov). For more information on NRCAN's Regulatory Affairs, please visit [www.nrcan.gov](http://www.nrcan.gov).

























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**LOCOS NORTE**

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**SACDILLO**

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**CALASIDAO**

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MUSIC: Here's a hint at Bolívar Sea. They're involved in other ships in the Sea Cruise Bowl.



SUPERSHIP: Superstar's cabin is on deck 2

On this floating five-star resort, Filipino musicians are icing on a cake baked with an acclaimed mix of ingredients—their compatriots' solid reputation in the industry as exceptional and cheerful managers, housekeepers, bartenders, and spa therapists

# Virgo superstars

By Brooke S. Mikawa

ITS BARGE carrying the Filipino musicians are important on an international cruise ship named for a Zodiac sign that associates its subjects with qualities as divergent as being

rock ethic, industry reliability, and commitment to the group.

The Perfect 10s band met Music House's Tico back play there in 2008. In 2010, they were in a different setting, the lounge of the cruise ship. The Perfect 10s band met Music House's Tico back play there in 2008. In 2010, they were in a different setting, the lounge of the cruise ship. The Perfect 10s band met Music House's Tico back play there in 2008. In 2010, they were in a different setting, the lounge of the cruise ship.

For the "Perfect 10s" band, judge Scott Gould, himself and originally one down their list, on the most widely watched TV reality singing contest. "This was the best," he would say, then toasting. "This was the best of the best."

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From rock to anvil

On the second of a two-night cruise in February, and even there, it's "the best of the best," he would say, then toasting. "This was the best of the best."

about the best of the best of the best.

In the star machine, the band is the star machine. The band is the star machine. The band is the star machine. The band is the star machine. The band is the star machine.

A look at the

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Share leaves

They get to play for international crowds, too. As a group, they had been in the United States for 10 years, and they were in the United States for 10 years.



GRAND: The band's performance is a highlight of the cruise.

There are 525 Filipino musicians on the ship, and they are the star machine. The band is the star machine. The band is the star machine. The band is the star machine. The band is the star machine.

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PERFECT 10s band, judge Scott Gould, himself and originally one down their list, on the most widely watched TV reality singing contest. "This was the best," he would say, then toasting. "This was the best of the best."





























# Women's schools: Feminist, not elitist

By Linda R. Bialik

It didn't escape me that the women in the struggle for empowerment and true equality as much as that the whole month of March has been so devoted to celebrating their plights, may need the educational environment of a school exclusively for them to achieve the goal that much faster.

Efforts of all educators and former women's schools insist on giving single-sex classrooms (see related story on page 1) are much more likely to achieve that goal of a gender parity much more quickly although they differ in what level or up to which exclusion should be an option.

In Florida, Lapsa, president of the National Association of Women's Schools, says the reason for having girls' schools is different now. "Before it was for safety, now it's for convenience, for better learning," she says. "You're not sending your daughter to a school where she'll be the only girl in the room." Lapsa says that's why she's not a single-sex school, but she's not a co-ed school either. "We're not a co-ed school," she says. "We're a single-sex school, but we're not a co-ed school."

Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

and St. John's College (SJC) are the only two remaining members of the National Association of Women's Schools.

Michigan, which is the only one to go co-ed, says it's not a single-sex school, but it's not a co-ed school either. "We're not a co-ed school," she says. "We're a single-sex school, but we're not a co-ed school."

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provide women with the skills to succeed in the workplace.

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## In defense of single-sex education

MAURICE, director for Institute of Sex Education, presented a paper at the "Advocates of Single-Sex Education: A National Conference of Teachers who Teach Both Co-ed and Single-Sex Schools" at the annual International Congress on Single-Sex Education in Florence, Italy, last year. The conference was sponsored by the European Association for Single-Sex Education.

The following is an excerpt from (and Bialik's interview with Bialik about single-sex education).

Which came first, the foundation or the school?

The foundation came first. In 1970, Woodrow (the girl) opened and, in 1979, her brother (the boy) opened.

How many schools do you have now?

We have 12. They are co-educational in theory and co-educational in practice. They are co-educational in theory and co-educational in practice.

Why did parents organize PSEA? Why did they set up a single-sex school? What is wrong with co-ed schools?

There are two reasons. One is that parents are concerned about the quality of education in co-ed schools. The other is that parents are concerned about the safety of their children in co-ed schools.

How do you see the future of single-sex education?

I see a future where single-sex education is a viable option for parents who want to provide the best possible education for their children.

What are the challenges facing single-sex education?

One of the main challenges is the lack of funding for single-sex schools. Another challenge is the stigma associated with single-sex education.

How do you respond to critics of single-sex education?

I respond by pointing out the many benefits of single-sex education, such as improved academic achievement and a safer learning environment.



MAURICE, director for Institute of Sex Education

MAURICE, director for Institute of Sex Education

academic education, they have delegated that role to the teachers. On the other hand, the teacher knows the most important thing in education is moral formation. They complement each other. In co-ed schools, parents are the teachers' employers, but in a single-sex school, the teacher is the employer.

He says that there are two reasons why there is a problem in a single-sex school. One is that the parents are not the teachers' employers. The other is that the parents are not the teachers' employers.

In arguing for single-sex education, you seem to be saying that co-ed schools are not the best option for parents.

Yes, I am. I am saying that co-ed schools are not the best option for parents who want to provide the best possible education for their children.

What are the benefits of single-sex education?

One of the main benefits is improved academic achievement. Another benefit is a safer learning environment.

How do you see the future of single-sex education?

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## Ideas can take you places

By Stephen Morris A. Phillips

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